such clearances. Efforts are also being made to expedite the SACFA clearance and issue of Wireless Operating License by Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, which is taking considerable time at present.

DTH Services of AIR

402. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Direct to Home (DTH) service of All India Radio is likely to be launched;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of channels on which the programme would be broadcast;

(d) whether it is also fact that several services of All India Radio are being closed down; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) Test transmission of DD's Ku band project, which includes 30 TV Channels and 12 AIR Channels, has already commenced. Ku band signals are available throughout the country except Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The signals can be received with the help of Ku band receive system.

(c) 12 channels of All India Radio are included in the Ku band bouquet of Prasar Bharati.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Radio Stations in Dharmapuri of Tamil Nadu

403. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL:Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that a 10 KW capacity radio station with a range of about 65 km was set up in Dharmapuri in Tamil Nadu with a cost of Rs. 4 crore but till date it has not started functioning due to shortage of essential staff;

(b) if so, the time likely to be taken to manning this radio station and commissioning it;

(c) whether Government propose to introduce FM Channel in this radio station in the interest of the local people;

(d) if so, by when; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) and (b) A full fledged Radio Station (10 KW FM Transmitter with Studio) at Dharmapuri is technically ready. Requisite staff for operation and maintenance of the Radio station, is yet to be approved by the competent authority.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The Station will start broadcast after the sanction of staff for operation & maintenance.

Lawyers with fake degrees

†404. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an ivestigation team of the Bar Council of India (Punjab and Haryana) identified 40 lawyers practicing on the basis of fake degrees and expressed the possibility of many persons holding the posts of judges etc.;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to identify and penalize all these fake degree holders; and

(c) by when this task would be accomplished?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. VENKATAPATHY): (a) Yes Sir, the special committee/verification team of Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana submitted a report to the Bar Council of India about forty enrolment cases where persons had got enrolled on the basis of alleged fake degrees or had applied for enrolment with fake degrees.

(b) and (c) The Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana has decided to remove the names of such persons from their Rolls and the Bar Council of India has accepted the references made by the Bar Council of Punjab and Haryana in that regard. FIRs for criminal offences have also been registered for submission of forged degrees.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.